

CASE STUDY – ORANGEVILLE HYDRO LIMITED



The organization

Orangeville Hydro Limited was established in 1916 as an energy distribution provider for the local Ontario community. Today, it has more than 10,000 customers from five substations with a team of 19 employees to keep the power flowing. The company is responsible for delivering safe, reliable, and efficient electrical energy to Orangeville's 28,000 residents.

The challenge

Orangeville Hydro Limited was established in 1916 as an energy distribution provider for the local Ontario community. Today, it has more than 10,000 customers from five substations with a team of 19 employees to keep the power flowing. The company is responsible for delivering safe, reliable, and efficient electrical energy to Orangeville's 28,000 residents.

The challenge

By 2006, Orangeville Hydro had grown exponentially in its 90-year history that began with 114 customers. The company could no longer support its older, in-house software system and needed to improve its capital project tracking, including labour costs and overhead data.

Orangeville Hydro has been tracking everything through general ledger, which was continually growing, while simultaneously tracking internal budgeted jobs and minor capital jobs to ensure they were charged accordingly. However, it lacked the ability to report on costs or to determine current value of an asset when replacement was required.

The company had been using Microsoft Dynamics GP since 1999, but was no longer finding the software sufficient on its own.

The solution

To assist in providing quality service, BDO suggested that Orangeville Hydro implement WennSoft Job Cost as its software solution provider. WennSoft helps provide accurate information and a history on jobs or projects to refer back to a later time. The software has been used around the world — including Australia, England, and Indonesia — since its incorporation in 1995. Orangeville Hydro began utilizing the Job Cost program in April 2006.

Since Orangeville Hydro's fiscal year is the same as the calendar year, implementation in the summer of 2006 included some crossover between the old and new solutions. The company worked to condense tracking costs for labour, overhead, material, trucking and contractors — including projects that were already opened — which led to using two systems as it transitioned to WennSoft.

SECTOR

Hydro and utilities

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“With Job Cost, we have access to historical project costs. That allows us to compare historical information to similar projects under consideration.”

Jan Howard, Manager of Finance and Rates

The results

While not often associated with public utilities, billing out specific jobs is a part of the utility company's annual capital income. Any situation where a crew is needed must be tracked. For example, if someone knocks down a utility pole in an accident, Orangeville Hydro may invoice the individual, or his/her insurance company, for the repair work. Then, it must be able to justify the original expense for the asset and document its current value.

With WennSoft, the Finance and Rates department can track costs to see if the company is coming close to budgeted amounts. Work orders for "chargeable work" are also tracked in the work order system and directly

invoiced. Furthermore, maintenance is tracked throughout the year with automated time capture by the Operations department. Orangeville Hydro can also track the status of its projects, as well as gather information for current or future use with Job Cost, ultimately improving the company's processes.

Moving forward, the Orangeville Hydro team can utilize WennSoft Job Cost and SmartList builder to accurately summarize data that is presented each year to several audiences it reports to, including the Ontario Energy Board, Town of Orangeville, and the company's own five-member board of directors.

BDO Solutions helps small, medium and large size organizations align technology to their overall business strategies using Microsoft technology. We specialize in implementing Microsoft Dynamics GP and NAV and Microsoft Dynamics CRM enabling our clients to streamline their business processes and improve overall operational efficiency. For additional information please contact:

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